

Applicants: Michael B. Sheldon et al Date: 1/26/02
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a metallic securing member for reception within the cavity of the shell member, the securing member extending between an upper end and a lower end and including an external securing element and an internal receptor element;

an external receptor element on the bearing member, the external receptor element and the internal receptor element having interengagable structures compatible with the securement characteristics of the selected bearing member such that upon engagement of the external receptor element with the internal receptor element the internal bearing member is secured to the securing member with the lower end of the bearing member spaced upwardly a prescribed distance from the lower end of the securing member; and

an internal securing element within the cavity of the shell member, the internal securing element being essentially complementary to the external securing element of the securing member such that upon selective engagement of the external securing element with the internal securing element the securing member is secured selectively within the shell member;

the prescribed distance between the lower end of the bearing member and the lower end of the securing member being such that contact between the neck member of the femoral component and the lower end of the securing member precludes deleterious impingement

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of any portion of the femoral component distal of the head member upon the bearing member.

Please rewrite claim 20 to read as follows:

20(amended). A shell member for use in an acetabular cup assembly having an internal bearing member for selective securement within the shell member interoperatively, the internal bearing member being selected from a plurality of bearing members having different characteristics, including different securement characteristics, such that the acetabular cup assembly selectively is provided with characteristics corresponding to the characteristics of the selected internal bearing member, the shell member comprising:

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an internal cavity;

a first securing element within the cavity of the shell member, the first securing element having a first securing structure compatible with the securement characteristics of at least one of the plurality of internal bearing members; and

a second securing element within the cavity of the shell member, the second securing element having a second securing structure compatible with the securement characteristics of at least another of the plurality of internal bearing members;

the first and second securing structures being juxtaposed with

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one another and placed at relative locations such that the effectiveness of each of the first and second securing elements is maintained while in the presence of the other of the first and second securing elements, whereby the one and the another of the internal bearing members each is selectable for effective selective securement within the shell member to complete the acetabular cup assembly interoperatively.

Please amend claim 26 to read as follows:

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26(amended). The invention of claim 25 wherein the bearing member includes an upper end and a lower end spaced in an axial direction from the upper end, and the rib includes a cross-sectional profile contour configuration having an upper section confronting the upper end of the bearing member, a lower section confronting the lower end of the bearing member, and an intermediate section between the upper and lower sections, the upper section making a first acute angle with the axial direction, the lower section making an obtuse angle with the axial direction, and the intermediate section making a second acute angle with the axial direction, the second acute angle being smaller than the first acute angle so as to establish tapered surfaces along the upper and intermediate sections for facilitating engagement of the rib within the recess, and a locking surface along the lower

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section for retaining the rib within the recess, while providing the rib with resistance to shearing from the bearing member.

[Please rewrite claim 27 to read as follows:]

27(amended). A kit of component parts for assembling an acetabular cup assembly having an internal bearing member for selective securement within a shell member interoperatively, the kit comprising:

a plurality of bearing members having different characteristics, including different securement characteristics, such that the acetabular cup assembly selectively is provided with characteristics corresponding to the characteristics of a selected one of the internal bearing members;

the shell member comprising:

an internal cavity;

a first securing element within the cavity of the shell member, the first securing element having a first securing structure compatible with the securement characteristics of at least one of the plurality of internal bearing members; and

a second securing element within the cavity of the shell member, the second securing element having a second securing structure compatible with the securement characteristics of at least another of the plurality of internal bearing members;

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the first and second securing elements being juxtaposed with one another and placed at relative locations such that the effectiveness of each of the first and second securing elements is maintained while in the presence of the other of the first and second securing elements, whereby the one and the another of the internal bearing members each is selectable for effective selective securement within the shell member as the selected one bearing member to complete the acetabular cup assembly interoperatively.

Please rewrite claim 33 to read as follows:

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33(amended). An improvement in a method for implanting an acetabular cup assembly having an external shell member with an internal cavity, and an internal bearing member for securement within the cavity interoperatively, the internal bearing member being selected from a plurality of bearing members having different characteristics, including different securement characteristics, such that the acetabular cup assembly selectively is provided with characteristics corresponding to the characteristics of the selected internal bearing member, the improvement comprising the steps of:

providing a first securing element within the cavity of the shell member, the first securing element having a first securing structure compatible with the securement characteristics of at